Amendment to the Abstract:

The Abstract has been amended. A revised Abstract is attached.

ABSTRACT

A database apparatus has an element appearance information storage portion in which element appearance information is stored using element name IDs as keys, an ancestral path appearance information storage portion in which element appearance information is stored using ancestral path name IDs of the elements as keys, an attribute appearance information storage portion in which attribute appearance information is stored using attribute name IDs as keys, and a text appearance information storage portion in which appearance information about text character strings of element entities and the values of attributes possessed by the elements is stored using the partial character strings as keys. Consequently, the database apparatus can search structured documents under various search conditions only by structural conditions. In addition, the apparatus can perform a character string search of attribute values.